OBITUARY

Lady Mallet

THE death of Marie, Lady Mallet, at her house, 8 Eccleston Square, on March 5th, sixteen months after the lamented death of her husband, our late President, will be felt as a personal loss by Fellows and Members of the *Eugenics Society*. Though sadly crippled, she had continued to show her interest in its proceedings by attending the recent members' meetings at Burlington House. She took a keen delight in sharing her husband's activities and greatly helped their progress by her personal charm and gracious hospitality, for she had a wonderful genius for friendship. She was the daughter of the late H. J. Adeane, and sister of Charles Adeane, C.B., of Babraham Hall and Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. Before her marriage in 1891 to Sir Bernard, she was a Maid of Honour and extra Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria, and was one of the few ladies not of royal birth to receive the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert, to which there have not been any appointments made since the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. She was buried at Babraham Church, and at the memorial service, held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, the *Eugenics* Society was represented by the Chairman of Council (Mr. B. S. Bramwell), the Hon. Mrs. Grant Duff and the General Secretary (Dr. C. P. Blacker). At a Council Meeting held on March 14th, the Chairman proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously supported: That the Council wishes to record its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Lady Mallet, and to express its sympathy with her family in their sad loss.

H. R.

Erwin Baur

FOR the following appreciation of the late Professor Erwin Baur we are indebted to Professor Dr. Erich Tschermak-Seysenegg, Director, Institute for Plant Breeding at the Hochschule für Bodenkultur, Vienna, and to Dr. Felix Tietze, who kindly supplied the translation from the original German:

When great men die we are the more deeply moved if death silences them at the height of their activity and achievement. Thus it was that we were saddened by the sudden death of Professor Erwin Baur, from angina pectoris, on the night of December 3rd, 1933. Not only applied genetics but the whole of German agriculture mourn deeply for this investigator of genius, from whom they might still have expected so much.

Professor Erwin Baur reached the age of only fifty-eight years. Born on April 16th, 1875, the son of a dispensing chemist at Ichenheim, Baden, he first studied medicine, becoming M.D. at the University of Kiel; and he made a voyage to Brazil as a ship's physician. From 1903 onward he devoted his whole time to botany, but in several of his studies Baur is still recognized as a student of medicine. Already as a young "Dozent" he was giving lectures on genetics, and by his many pupils he was esteemed highly as an interesting teacher. In 1910, he became Professor Extraordinary in Botany and Director of the Botanical Institute at the Berlin School for Agriculture (Landwirtschaftliche Hochschule). Supported by the German plant-breeders, he founded the first Institute for Genetics at Friedrichshagen in 1914, and at Dahlem in 1922 he inaugurated a similar institution which made his and his pupils' names renowned. But the crowning achievement of his life was the foundation, with the help of the "Relief Fund for German Research" (Notgemeinschaft der deutschen Wissenschaft), and of a number of banks and private individuals, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut at Müncheberg in 1929. There, from all quarters of the world, soon gathered every year a crowd of students, to absorb the views and suggestions of the great master or, under his direction, to study many different problems of plant-breeding.

Baur was an imposing personality of high genius, of rare working power, very energetic, if necessary absolutely inflexible; moreover, he was a first-class organizer, gifted with an almost incredible power of persuasion which, even at the present time when it is fashionable to underestimate scientific research, could succeed in inducing authorities and industrialists not to withdraw their help from his beloved institution.

Baur made himself known in early youth by his hybridization experiments with different races and species of snapdragon (antirrhinum) which he had collected in the course of many journeys in the Mediterranean area. His classical analysis of the genetic factors of this plant is familiar to every student of genetics. In the same species he was also able to show how selection possibilities were considerably enhanced by the artificial production of mutations. Not less known is Baur's research on the so-called graft bastards and periclinal